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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE REORGANIZES WATERFOWL PROGRAM

A greatly expanded program of enforcement and management for the protection of the Nation's migratory waterfowl resource was announced today by Albert M. Day, Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

The enactment of S. 509, now Public Law 182, by the last session of the Congress, authorized an increase in expenditure of duck stamp funds for enforcement and administration from 10% to 15% of annual receipts, at a time when more enforcement officers are sorely needed to protect the ducks and geese that fly south each autumn. The Service has estimated that the illegal kill of ducks and geese amounts to about 20 per cent of the legal kill. The new amendment is expected to enlarge enforcement facilities to the extent that more waterfowl will fly north each spring to their ancestral breeding grounds.

Based upon the sale of approximately 2,000,000 stamps each year, the Service expects to have an additional \$200,000 available to hire and equip enough new agents to bring the enforcement staff up to a strength of about 120 men. The additional funds will permit the placing of 21 new United States Game Management Agents in areas which were previously understaffed. It will also allow the Service to employ undercover agents to check commercialization and illegal shipment of waterfowl.

"Good enforcement is achieved in large measure through public understanding of and respect for the annual hunting regulations," said Mr. Day, "and good regulations can be based only upon sound, factual information. The States, through Pittman-Robertson projects, and the Service, with duck stamp and other funds, are now gathering much information on the year-round status of waterfowl. We must be certain that we are making maximum use of all of these data, acquired through the expenditure of public funds, when we undertake the difficult task of prescribing regulations each year.

"Management by flyways requires that additional technical help be assigned to the coordination of State and Federal activities in order that the best possible regulations may be made for each flyway. I am convinced that we can best achieve this goal through a reorganization of the Branch of Game Management which will combine the law enforcement officers and the waterfowl biologists in the same unit, under the same administrative direction. More efficient use can then be made of manpower and equipment in both the law enforcement and the fact-finding units. As the end result, the Service expects to be able to gather better data upon which to base the hunting regulations and to effect a decided strengthening of enforcement activities."

To accomplish this consolidation of enforcement and management, the Service Director explained that he is transferring the personnel and funds of the Section of Waterfowl Management Investigations, which includes the flyway biologists, from the Branch of Wildlife Research to the enlarged Branch of Game Management. "I want the Branch of Game Management to become what the name implies," said Mr. Day. "Public Law 182 was enacted to improve enforcement. This seems to be the appropriate time to effect a general improvement in the whole waterfowl management program which has long been considered."

Dr. Joseph P. Linduska, 38, and previously assistant chief of the Branch of Wildlife Research, has been selected to head the enlarged branch. Jesse F. Thompson, a veteran enforcement officer, who has been chief of the Service's present Branch of Game Management since January 1948, will serve as assistant chief to supervise the law enforcement work. The assistant chief who will supervise all waterfowl fact-finding surveys has not yet been named, according to Mr. Day.

"Dr. Linduska will assume his increased responsibilities backed by broad experience in wildlife management and field biology," said Director Day. A native of Butte, Montana, Linduska received his B.A. and M.A. degrees from the University of Montana, and his Ph.D. from Michigan State College.

His work in the wildlife field has covered a variety of problems. Immediately prior to his coming to the Fish and Wildlife Service in March 1947, he was employed by the Game Division of the Michigan Department of Conservation for seven years. With that organization he served as Pittman-Robertson project leader in studies on the management of farm game; as a game area manager for seven counties in southern Michigan; and as a leader of a State-wide survey covering the ring-necked pheasant and its management in the State, a problem similar to the new responsibilities he is now assuming. For two war-time years, while on furlough from his Michigan job, he was associated with the Orlando, Florida, laboratory of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine where pioneering work was done for the armed forces on DDT and other insecticides and repellants. "While having excellent professional training," Mr. Day stated, "he was chosen for this new post because he has proven himself to be a good, sound administrator and an able public servant."

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